Subsidising the export of farm products

640. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plan to subsidise export of farm products and remove Quantitative Restrictions (QR), to help farmers to export their products;

(b) whether it is reported that additional steps have also been taken, such as providing credit at lower interest rates, etc; and

(c) if so, what are the details of this plan and the result expected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPADYESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Policy of exports of agricultural products forms an integral part of the Export/Import Policy of the country. The Policy regarding exports of agricultural products is governed principally by the concerns of India's food security, maximising farm incomes and earning foreign exchange. Review of export performance of agricultural products is an on-going process, and accordingly, policy interventions are made, as and when considered necessary, with a view to making agricultural exports increasingly viable. Some of the steps taken/proposed to be taken are as follows:

- Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical knowhow of farmers through demonstrations, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old plantations, area expansion improving productivity and training of farmers.
- Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control and modernization of processing units.
- Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important fairs and exhibitions.
- Providing assistance in development of data base and dissemination of market information.
- Providing assistance for setting up a laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, eliminating contamination and ensuring freedom from fungi and bacteria.